

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

BRIDGET WHELAN

Bridget Whelan brings journalism, media relations, training, and nonprofit capacity-building experience to her role as training and engagement coordinator at The Opportunity Agenda. She trains advocates, organizers, policy experts and other spokespeople in the social justice sector on strategic communications, including messaging, strategy and media relations.

She previously worked as communications director for the North Carolina Conservation Network, coordinating communications efforts for nearly 100 environmental groups in the state. She is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who worked on television and digital news platforms at Capitol Broadcasting Company in Raleigh, NC before leaving news to advocate for a more equitable and just world. Bridget holds a degree in Journalism from Ohio University, and she volunteers at the Durham Literacy Center, teaching English to non-native speakers.

Follow Bridget on Twitter [@bridgetmwhelan](https://twitter.com/bridgetmwhelan).

I. INDIA THUSI

India Thusi is Associate Counsel & Robert L. Carter Fellow at The Opportunity Agenda. She focuses on policies and advocacy to promote a fair and just criminal justice system.

Immediately after graduating from law school, she clerked for the fellowship's namesake, the Honorable Robert L. Carter, while he served on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. After clerking for Judge Carter, India clerked for Judge Damon J. Keith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and more recently clerked for Justice van der Westhuizen on the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Prior to joining The Opportunity Agenda, India was a research fellow at the Du Bois Institute at Harvard University.

India has litigated civil rights cases as a Marvin M. Karpatkin Fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union National, where she challenged the overpolicing of young people. She was the Keith Center Lecturer at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit and the Director of the Damon J. Keith Law Collection of African American Legal History. India has authored articles on a variety of issues around policing and structural inequality in the criminal justice system.

India holds a J.D., cum laude, from Fordham University School of Law and a B.A. from Emory University. She has conducted ethnographic research on the policing of sex workers in South Africa and is completing her Ph.D. in Anthropology and Law & Society at the University of Witwatersrand.

JUSTIN COOK

Justin Cook is a Jackson-native, Justin has been at the Office of State Public Defender since January of 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. Justin attended law school at the University of Mississippi. He lives in Jackson with his wife, Ginger, his daughter, Eloise, his son Oliver and their beloved dog, Stella.

JEFF ADACHI

Jeff Adachi has served as elected Public Defender of the City and County of San Francisco since March 2002 and has worked as a deputy public defender in San Francisco for 15 years. From 1998-2001, he served as the Chief Attorney of the office. He has tried over 150 jury trials, including numerous serious felony and homicide cases, and has handled over 3,000 criminal matters throughout his career. As the only elected Public Defender in the state of California, Mr. Adachi oversees an office of 93 lawyers and 60 support staff. The office, which has a \$30 million budget, represents more than 23,000 people each year who are charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses. It provides a panoply of innovative programs to its clients, including Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Clean Slate expungement services, and a full-service juvenile division. The public defender's community MAGIC programs address the root causes of juvenile crime in San Francisco's underserved neighborhoods by linking families with educational, health and community services. Mr. Adachi has received numerous local, state and national awards, most recently the 2014 SPUR Good Government Award, 2014 California Public Defender's Association Program of the Year Award, and 2015 American Bar Association Hodson Award for Public Service. He serves on the Board of Directors of Cal Humanities. Mr. Adachi graduated from Hastings College of the Law in 1985 and attended undergraduate studies at U.C. Berkeley.

JUSTIN HEIM

Justin is a Client Services Specialist with the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office, in their Appellate Division. He holds a master's degree in Contemplative Counseling Psychology, a program that incorporated the principles of mindfulness practice and other contemplative teachings into psychotherapist training. Justin went on to work on an emergency psychiatric services team providing crisis counseling and evaluation. He has been a counselor in a county jail, and a program supervisor for a residential treatment program for young adults with severe and persistent mental illness. In his current position, he provides advocacy services for SPD clients at the post-conviction level. Justin's background and training in mindfulness practices has helped him to endure a career that invites stressful and uncertain situations. In 2015, he began a statewide initiative to introduce mindfulness practice to the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office. He strongly believes in the impact mindfulness practice can have on Public Defenders, including sustaining self-care; increasing confidence and resilience in high stress situations; and combating implicit bias.

HUGH GUILL

Hugh Guill is a native Houstonian. He graduated from Kenyon College with a Political Science degree, played varsity football and baseball, and was the community service chair for his fraternity. In 2008, Hugh was accepted into Teach For America and was placed in Denver, CO for his two-year teaching commitment. During this time, he decided to devote himself to the fight for educational equity.

Following his two years in Denver, Hugh returned to Houston to become Principal at Yes Prep Gulfton, where he was responsible for building a strong student and staff culture, for strengthening community relationships, and for instructionally coaching a cohort of high school teachers.

Hugh was admitted into the full-time MBA program at Rice University in the fall of 2015. Upon completing his first semester, Hugh deferred his MBA enrollment to become the New Schools Coordinator for the Association of Recovery Schools (ARS) before accepting his current position as Vice President – Programs at Young People in Recovery (YPR). He is incredibly excited to leverage his past experiences to continue to help build and implement high-quality, recovery-support curriculums and programs across the United States.

KIMBER FALKINBURG

Kimber Lee Falkinburg, PRS-S, Founder of Spread Hope Like Fire and former National Program Manager for Young People in Recovery (YPR), has launched more than 14 start-up programs for non-governmental agencies in 4 states across the US and supported the rapid growth and development of the YPR movement in more than 25 states throughout 2016. She is a person in long-term recovery and a passionate advocate for people with substance use and mental health disorders. She also launched the first pilot project for the Phoenix Program with YPR in Texas. Ms. Falkinburg has worked in recovery support services with MAP Health Management and served as the Senior Program Director for BCFS Health & Human Services. While with BCFS, she launched a program for transitional age youth called YouthBuild, managed a Transitional Youth Center serving more than 400 young people per year in the Texas Hill Country, and helped launch six state-wide initiatives for transitional age youth across Texas several of which specifically addressed young adults involved in the criminal justice system.

BLAKE FELDMAN

Blake Feldman is the Advocacy Coordinator for Criminal Justice Reform at the ACLU of Mississippi. In this role, he engages in grassroots advocacy and public education, while also supporting efforts to effect systemic reform through impact litigation and administrative and legislative initiatives. Importantly, the ACLU's work concerning criminal justice spans from start to finish of criminal procedure, and Blake has engaged with efforts ranging from police encounters to reentry reform to death penalty abolition.

Before joining the ACLU of Mississippi in August 2015, Blake received his J.D. from the University

of Georgia School of Law. As a law student, he volunteered and interned with Orleans Public Defenders, the Bronx Defenders, the public defender office in Athens, GA, and the Federal Defender Program in Atlanta.

Before attending Georgia Law in 2012, Blake – a native of Newton, MS – received his B.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi.

PATRICK MULVANEY

Patrick Mulvaney is the managing attorney for capital litigation at the Southern Center for Human Rights. He focuses primarily on appellate and post-conviction cases in Georgia and Alabama. He and other SCHR attorneys represented Timothy Foster in *Foster v. Chatman*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court held in May 2016 that Georgia prosecutors discriminated on the basis of race when they struck all four black prospective jurors from the venire at Foster's 1987 trial.

MACKEY WRIGHT

Mackey Wright currently serves as the Staff Investigator for the Federal Public Defender for the Pensacola, FL Office of the Northern District of Florida. Mackey was sworn into this position on June 28, 2014. Prior to becoming the Staff Investigator for the Federal Defender Office, Mackey worked for the Mississippi Office of the State Public Defender as Investigator/Mitigation Specialist. Mackey worked for the MS OSPD for nearly five years. Mackey received his Masters in Social Work from Jackson State University in 2010 and received a second Masters in Public Administration from Belhaven University in 2012. Mackey is a proud Veteran of the United States Army serving during Operation Desert Storm.

DERRICK ST. FORT

Derrick St Fort received a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and a minor in Psychology from Florida State University. He then received a Masters in Social Work from Florida State University. He is currently a Certified Criminal Defense Investigator. He was employed at the Public Defenders Office, 2nd Judicial circuit in Tallahassee, Florida for 10 years. He's currently working at the Federal Defenders office of the Northern District of Florida in Tallahassee.

BRANDON BUSKEY

Brandon has been with the ACLU's Criminal Law Reform Project since 2012. His work focuses on reforming pretrial justice, expanding the right to counsel, juvenile sentencing, and residency restrictions for former sexual offenders. Prior to the ACLU, Brandon worked at the Equal Justice Initiative and the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office. He is a 2006 graduate of New York University Law School, where he was a Root-Tilden Kern and AnBryce Scholar. Following law school he clerked for the Honorable Janet C. Hall of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

MIRIAM AUKERMAN

Miriam Aukerman joined the ACLU of Michigan in December 2010 as the staff attorney for the newly-opened West Michigan Regional Office. In addition to building a robust legal program in West Michigan, Miriam participates in advocacy activities, such as public speaking, media interviews and outreach work to increase understanding of constitutional rights and the ACLU's work.

Prior to joining the staff of the ACLU, Miriam worked with Legal Aid of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids, as both a Soros Justice Fellow and then as the founding director of the Reentry Law Project. Miriam litigated numerous high impact cases challenging the legal barriers preventing individuals with criminal records from obtaining housing, employment and education. She also spearheaded a multi-faceted statewide campaign to achieve systemic reform on reentry issues.

For nearly ten years, Miriam has been an active member of both the ACLU of Michigan Western Branch Board and its Lawyers Committee. She has served as a cooperating attorney on many important issues including racial profiling in Grand Rapids and a challenge to a Dearborn ordinance restricting protests, which resulted in a significant Sixth Circuit decision on the right to protest. She also led the ACLU's election protection efforts in Grand Rapids in 2004 and 2008.

Miriam graduated summa cum laude from both Cornell University and the New York University Law School, where she received numerous academic and public interest awards. She was also a Keasbey Scholar at Oxford University, earning a master's degree with honors in international relations. Following law school, she was selected for a judicial clerkship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York with Judge Pierre Leval.

The daughter of a minister, Miriam lives with her husband and two children in Grand Rapids.

JUSTICE ANN H. LAMAR

Justice Ann Hannaford Lamar joined the Mississippi Supreme Court on May 21, 2007, when Governor Haley Barbour appointed her upon Presiding Justice Kay B. Cobb's retirement. In November 2008, Justice Lamar was elected to serve an eight year term, beginning January 1, 2009. She is the third woman to serve on the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Lamar served as a Circuit Court Judge in the 17th Circuit Court District, which encompasses Desoto, Tate, Panola, Yalobusha, and Tallahatchie counties. During her tenure as a circuit court judge, Justice Lamar served the Conference of Circuit Court Judges as Chairman in 2006-2007. She also presided over the 17th Circuit Drug Court, supervising program participants in four of the five counties.

Justice Lamar served as District Attorney in the 17th district until her appointment to the circuit bench in November, 2001. Prior to her election as District Attorney, she served nine years as an assistant district attorney and eight years in the private practice of law. Upon graduation from law

school in 1982, Justice Lamar began practicing law with her husband in Senatobia at Lamar & Lamar.

Justice Lamar earned her law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1982, after attending Northwest Mississippi Junior College and earning a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Delta State University in 1974.

Since arriving at the Court, Justice Lamar has served on the Court's Rules Committees, and she is now Chairman of the Criminal Rules Committee. She also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Judicial College. In 2008, Justice Lamar served as Co-Chair of the Commission for the Study of Domestic Abuse Proceedings.

Justice Lamar is a member and past president of the William C. Keady American Inns of Court. She was named Citizen of the Year by the Tate County Economic Development Foundation in 2010, and she was inducted as a Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation in 2011. Justice Lamar is also the recipient of the Mississippi Bar's Susie Blue Buchanan Award for commitment to the advancement of women in the field of law, and the Outstanding Women Lawyer Award, presented by the Mississippi Women Lawyers Association.

Justice Lamar is the daughter of Bobbie Jean Hannaford and the late Chancery Judge Leon Hannaford. She is married to John Lamar of Senatobia. She and John are the proud parents of two adult children, Trey (and wife, Jill) and Vance, and they have three grandchildren. The Lamars are active members of First Baptist Church in Senatobia.

LARRY PERRY

Larry Perry has been President/CEO and Co-founder of New Way Mississippi, Inc. since 1998. New Way Mississippi has a partnership with the Mississippi Department of Corrections to provide transition/re-entry services to ex-offenders in the state of Mississippi to include pre-release and post-release mentoring. Larry has been working in the non-profit management and the outreach ministry field for the past 23 years. For seven years he served as Deputy Executive Director for Gateway Rescue Mission, he served for twelve years as Director for New Day Rehabilitation Ministry for New Horizon Ministries, Inc. and for the past ten years he is a Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling Trainer for the Mississippi Contact Crisis Line Inc.

Larry graduated from Gloster High School in Gloster, Mississippi and attended college at Wesley Biblical College in Florence, MS studying Christian Education and Marriage & Family Counseling. He is a Certified Crisis Counselor for Mississippi Contact Crisis Line Inc, a member of the Mississippi Association for Addiction Professionals and the National Association for Addiction Counselors, and a member of the Leadership Greater Jackson Alumni.

Larry served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone Southern Command (193rd Infantry Combat Support Battalion) during the ratification of the new Panama Canal treaty under President Jimmy Carter's Administration (1976-78).

Larry has been married to Margaret J. Perry for 31 years. He has 3 adult daughters (Chera, LaWanda & Brandy) and 7 grandchildren. He is a native of Centerville, MS and has resided in Clinton for the past 21 years. Larry is a born again Christian and a member of Day Spring Community Church in Clinton, MS.

ADAM KILGORE

Adam Kilgore is General Counsel for The Mississippi Bar where his duties include reviewing all Bar complaints, conducting investigations regarding Bar complaints, prosecuting attorney discipline cases, handling appeals before the Supreme Court of Mississippi, and serving as Bar liaison for the Board of Bar Commissioners, Committee on Professional Responsibility, and the Ethics Committee. Adam is a member of The Mississippi Bar, National Organization of Bar Counsel, Capital Area Bar Association and the Professional Responsibility Section of the American Bar Association.

Adam earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Communications from Mississippi College in 1992, and graduated from Mississippi College School of Law in 2000 where he was a member of the Moot Court Board. Upon graduation Adam served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Mississippi for Chief Justice Edwin Lloyd Pittman. Adam has worked at The Mississippi Bar since 2002, serving as Assistant General Counsel for two years prior to becoming General Counsel in 2004.